

AMENDMENT

In the claims:

Please cancel Claim 1 without prejudice and without disclaimer. Please amend Claim 2, so that the text of the amended claim reads as follows.

- Sub B1 7
a1
- 2.(Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that:
- (a) encodes the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2; and
 - (b) hybridizes under highly stringent conditions with wash conditions of 0.1xSSC/0.1%SDS at 68°C to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the complete complement thereof. .

Please add new claims 6-7.

a2

-6.(New) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence of Claim 3.

7.(New) A cell comprising the expression vector of Claim 6.--

RESPONSE

I. Status of the Claims

Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer. Claim 2 has been amended. Claims 4 and 5 are also cancelled as being drawn to a non-elected invention. New claims 6 and 7 have been added. Claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 are therefore presently pending in the case. For the convenience of the Examiner, a clean copy of the pending claims is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii), a marked up copy of the original claims is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

II. Support for the Claims

Claim 2 has been amended to further clarify the claim, and to recite specifically highly stringent hybridization conditions. Support for this claim can be found throughout the specification as originally